**The Boston Tea Party**

**Article from The Huntington Library**

American colonists refused to buy goods from Britain because of the Townshend taxes. As

British merchants lost more and more money because of the success of the colonial “non-importation” agreements they convinced Parliament to give in. Therefore, Parliament removed all of the Townshend taxes except the tax on tea. By keeping the tax on tea Parliament was telling the colonists that they still had the right to place taxes on goods shipped to America.

As a result, American colonial leaders were not satisfied. They believed that laws should not be made without their consent. In other words, they felt that Parliament had no right to pass laws, especially tax laws, if they had no votes in Parliament.

The British continued to send tea to American port cities. Since many merchants had agreed not to sell the tea it began to pile up in warehouses. The British East India Company that produced the tea influenced Parliament to pass the Tea Act in 1773. This led to the removal of all British taxes on tea except a very small import tax on tea shipped to America. Although the price of tea dropped, colonists still objected to the tax and refused to buy East India tea even though it was now cheaper than tea that was smuggled to the colonies.

The East India Company believed that the colonists would buy the cheaper tea and shipped half a million pounds of tea to Boston. When the *Dartmouth*, one of the tea ships, arrived at Boston the citizens organized meetings and demanded that the ship return with its tea to Britain. The governor refused.

On December 16, 1773, Samuel Adams, a leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty, organized a group of men to take action. They disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians and boarded the *Dartmouth*. They worked through the night with axes smashing 342 crates of tea and dumped them into Boston harbor. The Sons of Liberty, although they dressed as Indians, wanted everyone to know that they were responsible for dumping the tea in the harbor. As a result, the disguises were worn just to make sure that the British authorities in Boston would not be able to identify individuals and arrest them for destroying the tea.

The British were furious! In 1774 Parliament passed the Coercive Acts to punish Boston. Colonists called these acts “intolerable” and called on all the colonies to organize.

**Causes Of The American Revolution Time Line, 1765–1776**

**1766 Repeal Of The Stamp Act**

Parliament repealed the Stamp Act but passed a Declaratory Act stating that it had

power to pass any laws governing the American colonies.

**1767 Townshend Acts**

Parliament passed a tax on imports of glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea. Colonists

organized and refused to import British goods.

**1768 British Troops Sent To Boston**

Troops with artillery arrived to keep order.

**1770 Townshend Taxes Repealed**

Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts except for the

tax on tea.

**1770 Boston Massacre**

British troops fired on a crowd killing five. Troops

withdrew to islands in the harbor to avoid more

bloodshed.

**1773 Boston Tea Party**

Sons of Liberty dumped shipload of tea into the harbor.

**1774 Coercive Acts**

British Parliament passed series of acts responding to the Boston Tea Party.

**1774 First Continental Congress**

All the colonies except Georgia sent delegates to organize

against British policy. Congress adjourned but promised to

meet again if British policy was not changed.

**1775 Lexington And Concord**

Paul Revere rode to warn the Sons of Liberty that British

soldiers were marching to Lexington. The first shots

were fired at Lexington and Minute Men forced the

British to retreat to Boston after the battle at Concord.

**1775 Second Continental Congress**

John Hancock elected president of the Congress and George

Washington appointed Commander-in-Chief of the

Continental Army.

**1775 Battle Of Bunker Hill**

British took the hill outside Boston but lost many more

soldiers than the American defenders.

**1776 Declaration Of Independence**

Second Continental Congress declared independence from Britain.